

HIGHLAND MAIN STREET MEETING
Town of Highland 3333 Ridge Road Highland, Indiana 46322
August 6, 2015 MINUTES

Call to Order

At 7:35 PM, the Highland Main Street (HMS) meeting was called to order by Vice President Dawn Diamantopoulos in the Upper Conference Room of the Highland Municipal building located at 3333 Ridge Road.

Roll Call:

The following members of the 2015 Highland Main Street Board were present: Mario DeGeorge, Julie Larson, , Marion Case, Tracy Oprea, Jim Kessler, Dawn Diamantopoulos, and Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro. Dan Dunn, Jen Duncan, Alicia Rosignol, and Marie Russo were absent. Others present included Lee Kause and Chris Duer.

Minutes:

Tracy made a motion to approve the HMS minutes from May 7, 2015 and June 4, 2015. Mario seconded the motion. **Minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.**

Car Cruise Committee—Mike, Jim, Mario, and Lee

Chairman Mario DeGeorge stated that Thunder Road Productions and HMS has scheduled the 2015 Car Cruise for October 3, 2015 from 12 PM to 4 PM. Five Hundred (500) new flyers and fifteen (15) posters will be printed and distributed. Downtown businesses will be contacted regarding the early start and an article will appear in the September *Gazebo Express* town newsletter and an ad will be featured in Panorama Magazine.

Art Display

No update on the Art Display for Fall/Winter 2015 was provided.

Festival of the Trail

The date for the 2015 Festival of the Trail will be October 10, 2015. Dawn Diamantopoulos is chairperson for the event. Other members are Jennifer Duncan, Julie, Larson, Jessica Brown, Chris Duer, Marion, and Bridget DeYoung. Highland Athletic Booster Club will participate by selling mums and pumpkins. Packets for participants, artists, and businesses are being prepared. Once deadlines are established, the packets will be available for Chris, Marion, and Julie to distribute. Jessica Brown will update the logo and the flyer. No response has been received from Griffith and Hammond on whether or not they will join us this year; however, a meeting is planned next week with a Griffith representative.

Town Theatre Memberships

The number of 2015 Founding Town Theatre memberships is 467 to date. They breakdown into the following:

18 Small Businesses

223 Family

60 Individual

166 Senior/students

\$15,090 has been collected, and with an additional \$3,250 in donations, the total is \$18,340.00

Tracy, the Chairperson of the Membership Committee, stated that on Sunday, August 16, 2015, she is seeking volunteers to hand out information and to receipt Town Theatre Membership monies at the Munster Farmers' Market from 7:30 AM to 2 PM. She is seeking volunteers for four shifts. Cecile will send out emails to HMS and Art Committee volunteers to recruit assistance.

Volunteers

Marion Case reported that he has 512 volunteers signed up to date. A volunteer survey has been sent out and responses are coming into the Redevelopment Commission offices. Members discussed ways to encourage a greater response to the survey, such as changing the subject line from "survey" to something else that may not elicit spam. The return of survey responses has not been at the level expected.

Town Theatre

Tracy, a member of the Town Theatre Board of Directors, reported that the group is currently working on possible fundraisers with TomFoolery, which produced the first fundraiser. Cecile reported that the roof of the theatre will need to be replaced. A Request for Proposals (RFP) has been sent to thirteen architectural firms for the second phase of the project. The Commission will close on the two units to the north of the theatre located at 8610 & 8612 Kennedy Avenue. These two units will be incorporated within the footprint of the renovated theatre.

Highland Rookery

No further progress has been made on the Rookery project.

Pop-Up Gallery

No further progress has been made on the Pop-Up Gallery event.

Coupon Program

No report.

Little Free Libraries

The Little Free Library is up and running on the bike path south of the townhouses off of 5th and Ridge Road.

Art and Cultural District Exercise

The group reviewed the maps provided by consultant, SEH. Some indicated with stickers where they would like to see various improvements. Others will send in their comments.

Tree Lighting Ceremony

Cecile will send out an email requesting a chairperson for this event.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.